

“TIRME”. TYPE OF AZERBAIJANI TEXTILE, TECHNOLOGY OR DESIGN?

(Etymology and Semiology of the Term)

"***Tirme***" is the name of a type of traditional Azerbaijani textile, which was manufactured by artisanal methods in the Middle Ages. The most sophisticated "***Tirme***" textile were made in the workshops (karkhane) of the Safavid era in Tabriz. The complexity of weaving and the richness of the decor determined the high cost and elitism of this textile. Only the upper class could sew clothing from *tirme* and use it in everyday life. The most expensive type of *tirme* was called "***misgali tirme***", in which, along with woolen or silk threads, interlacing and golden threads were used. This textile was sold not by size, but by weight. The cost of one *misqal* of fabric (a *misqal* of weight of 4,5 grams) was equivalent to the cost of one *misqal* of gold.

Textile *Tirme* was used as a tablecloth, curtain, partition, clothes, traditional shawls (*shal*). Shawls from *Tirme* textile were called "***Tirme Shal***".

The "***Tirme***" textile technology is a twill weave that allows you to weave a decorative textile that has elasticity along an "oblique line".

The most ancient design of the "***Tirme***" textile decor was "mesh rhombic design". Later appear the design of "square grid" and "diagonal stripes." In all variants, the main typological motif is the mesh and diagonal-linear structure of the design. And it is precisely its structure that "sheds light" on the etymology and semiology of the word "***Tirme***".

The word "***tirme***" is used in the languages of many Turkic peoples and, along with the name of the cloth, it denotes the concept of a yurt construction. "The portable, temporary dwelling, once widespread among the Bashkirs, was a trellis tent (*tirme*), so characteristic of steppe nomadic pastoralists ..." (1. 172-210).

Felt Yurt in the Nogai Turks - "***terme uy***", in Tuvans - "***terme og***". In Kyrgyz, Kazakhs - "***terma***", in Kumandyns - "***terme***", in Uzbeks - "***terma***", in Kalmyks, the

word “*term*” means “trellised wall of the nomadic tent”, etc. In Azerbaijani, the word “**tir** (me)” means a long thin bar or pole in the construction of a dwelling.

The Turkic word "***Tirme***" was also deposited in the Russian language: The Russian word "*terem*" means - home. The Turkic word “*terme*” in the sense of a wicker fence, participates in the Russian word “*tyurma*” (“prison”).

The basis of all these variants of words is the ancient Türkic "***ter***" - to assemble, construct (2. 393). And the common Turkic “*yurt*” (*yurd*, *jurt*) means “tribal land, motherland.



Bashkir Yurt (Terme)



Nomadic “Yurt”, assembled on the basis of the net, braided construction "tirme"

Let's return to the traditional textile "***Tirme***", which was mentioned above:

Diagonally intersecting thin poles of the **yurt-tirme** construction are transformed in the design of traditional textile of the same name "***tirme***". This design is distributed in Central Asia along the routes of the Great Silk Road.

In the era of the Great Moguls, reaching Indian Kashmir, this design is "processed" and the diagonal narrow stripes are already located not along the diagonal but along the length of the textile. A well-known design in Central Asia along the same Silk Road, back "migrates" to the West, reaching as far as the Safavid and Ottoman Empire. Now this updated design is called "***Kashmiri***" (from Kashmir).

In the Late Safavid and Qajar epoch, a combined cut begins to be used in clothes made of traditional *Tirme* textile with narrow stripes. Traditional stripes "***Tirme***" are located in clothes in different directions, enriching the decorative image of clothing.

The design with diagonal stripes and "mesh design" is more used in tablecloths, curtains and famous "*tirme shal*" shawls. Design with straight, elegant stripes with a small ornamental rapports is used in clothes.

Summing up, it can be stated that the ancient Turkic term "***Tirme***", in the majority of Türkic nomads, meant a woven net construction of a Yurt or tent. This term has become the name of a traditional textile with a lattice or diagonally banded design.

In the era of the Great Moghuls in Kashmir, the diagonal design of the banded rows changes. Now, the strips are arranged in parallel, along the length of the textile. The close cultural contacts of the Safavid Empire with the Moghuls, the migration of master craftsmen, lead to the spread of this motif in the textile and carpets of both empires.

Later, the new design, enriched with the Kashmir tradition, becomes a favorite among the Qajar aristocracy. At this time, this textile already has two names: "***Tirme***" and "***Kashmiri***". The first name keeps the genetic memory of the Turkic

nomadic culture, and the second - the memory of the Safavids, Moghul and Qajar civilizations of the late Middle Ages.



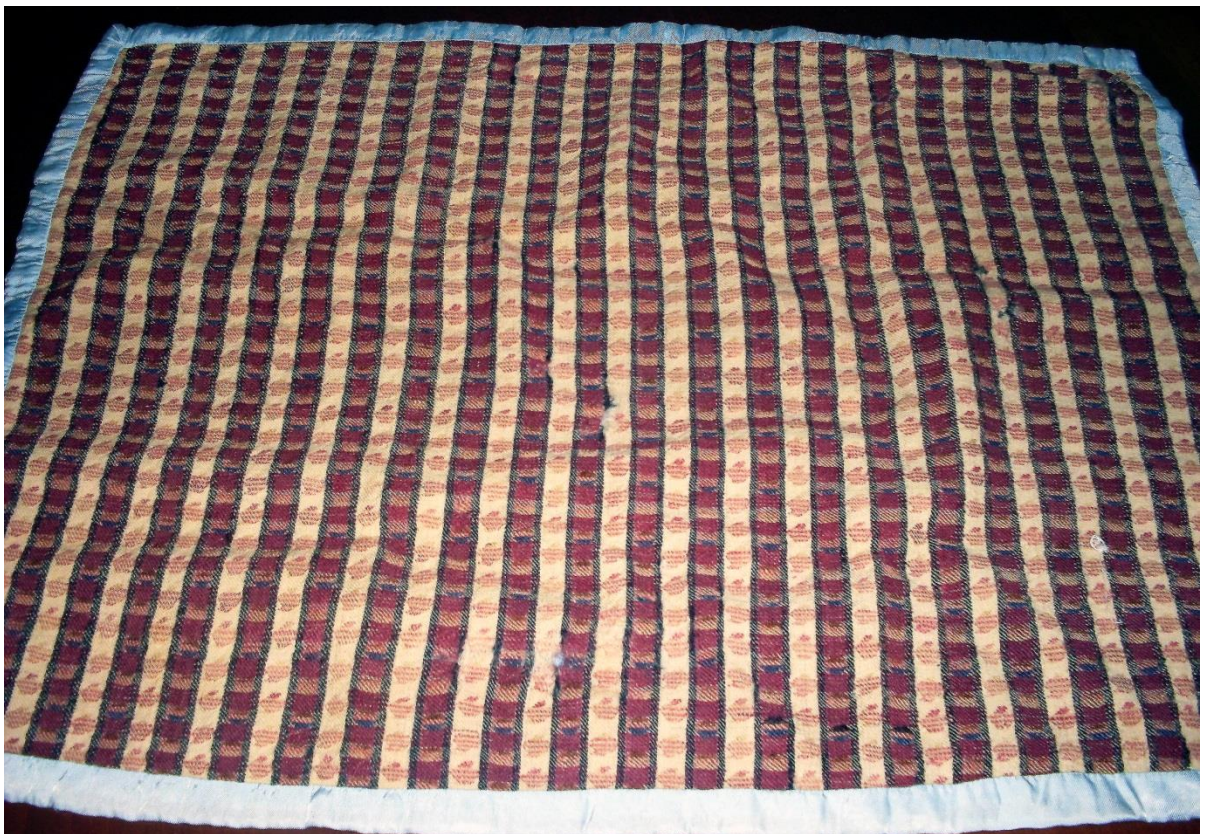
Textile "Tirme". Safavids. XVII century



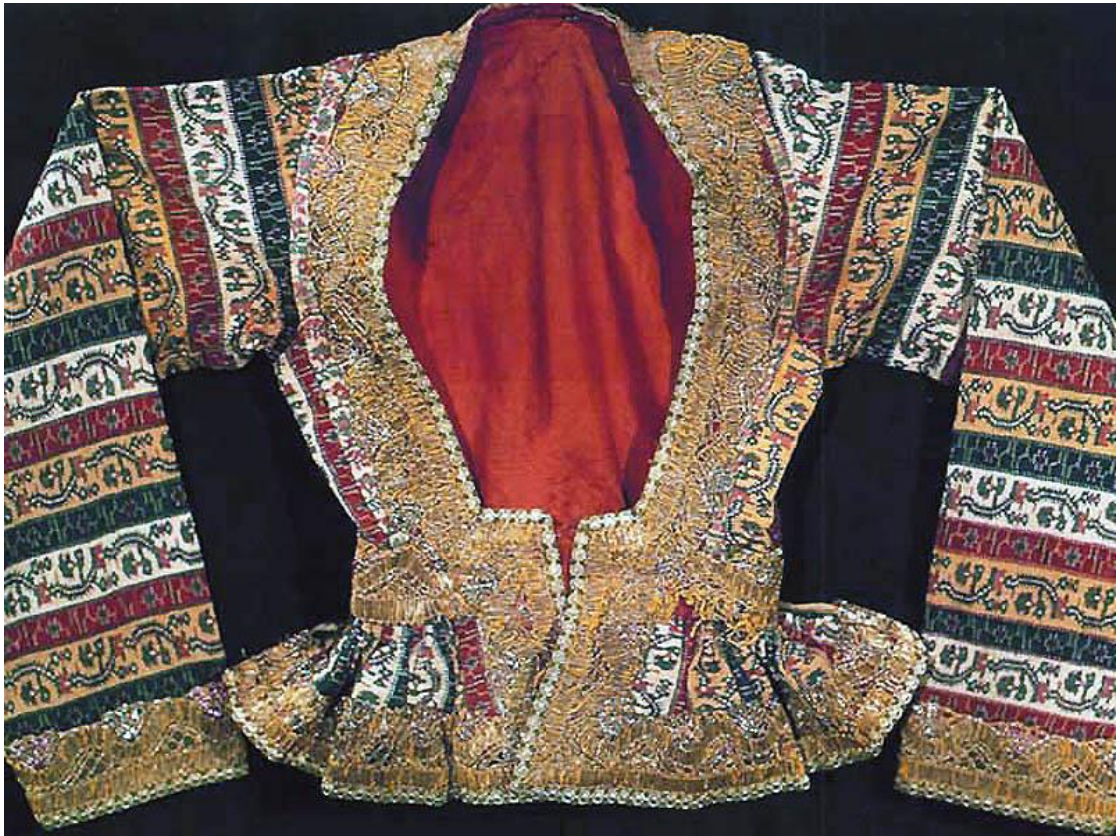
Textile "Tirme". Safavids. XVII century



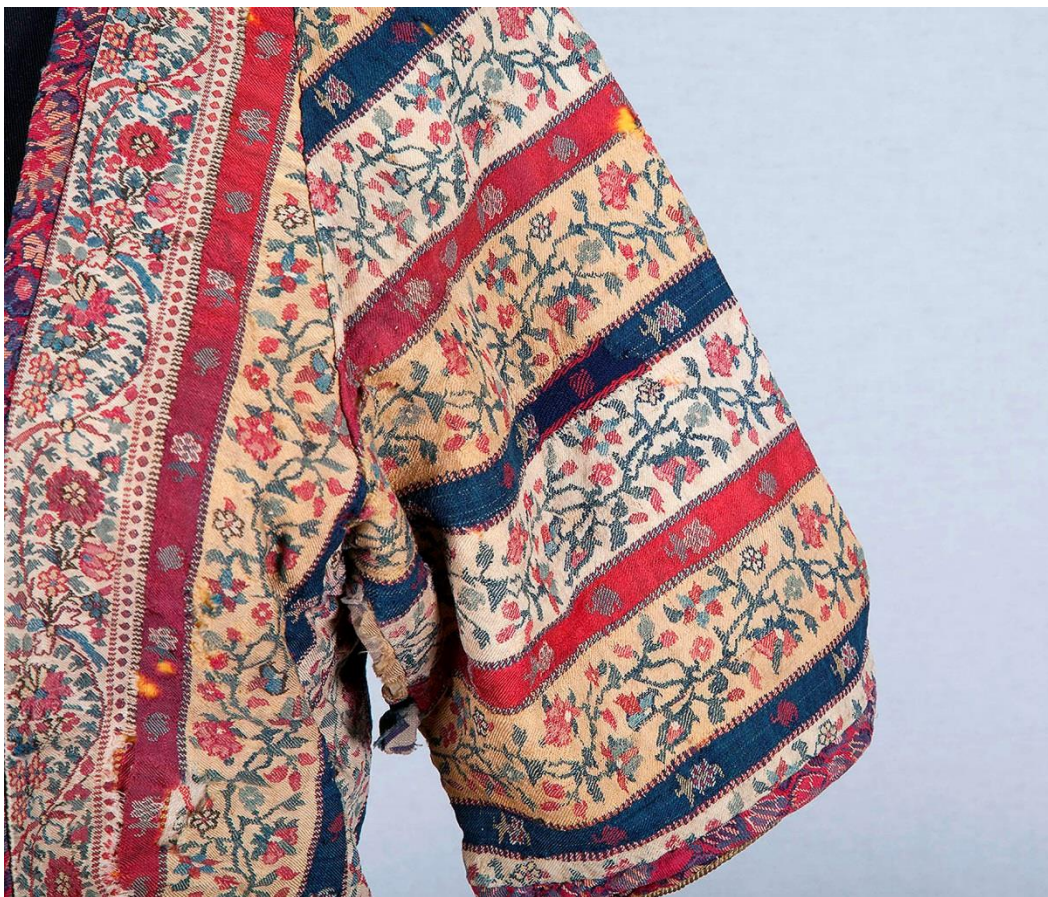
Indian "Kashmiri" textile. The middle of the XIX century.



Textile "Tirme". Azerbaijan. Shusha (Karabakh). The end of the XIX century



Traditional Azerbaijani clothing "Arkhalyk", combined with textile "Tirme". The end of the XIX century. History Museum of Azerbaijan



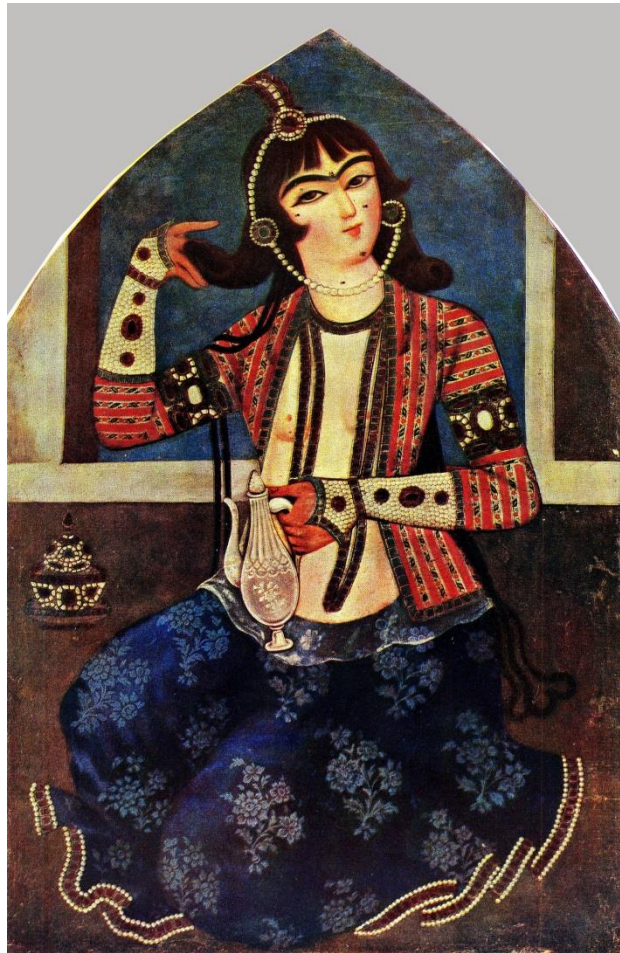
Traditional Azerbaijani clothing "Labbada". The end of the XIX century.



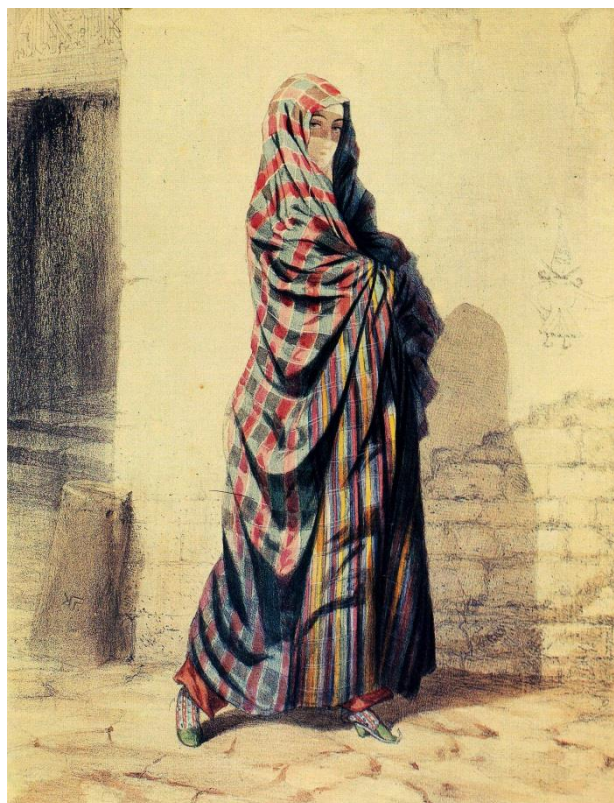
Traditional Azerbaijani clothing "Labbada". The end of the XIX century.



Traditional Azerbaijani clothing "Labbada". The end of the XIX century.



**Woman from the Shah's harem. Qajar era. XIX century.
National Museum of Georgia**



Woman from Baku. Artist G. Gagarin. The middle of the XIX century

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